

BLAZE IN SHIPPLANT SWEEPS 6 BUILDINGS; LOSS PUT AT \$500,000

Enemy Plot Suspected in Fire at E. W. Morse Dry Dock in Brooklyn.

SOLDIERS TAKE CHARGE

One Foreigner Arrested and All 1,600 Men on Night Shift Detained.

MACHINE SHOP BURNED

Other Important Structures on Five Blocks of Waterfront Also Are Destroyed.

Fire started a few minutes before 10 o'clock last night in the plant of the E. W. Morse Dry Dock and Repair Company, which covers five blocks of the waterfront from Fifty-fifth to Sixty-fifth street in Brooklyn, and although four alarms were turned in and all available apparatus was hurried to the scene, the flames raged for more than two hours before they were brought under control. Six buildings were destroyed—the carpenter shop, the pattern shop, the joining shop, the on building, the restaurant, the machine shop and a wooden barracks in which soldiers were housed—with a loss estimated by officials of the company at \$500,000.

United States Marshal Power, together with E. W. Morse and other officials of the company, immediately started an investigation to determine if the fire was the result of a German plot. Their first step was to surround the dock and the yards of the company with a strong guard of soldiers and policemen and to detain every man of the 1,600 workmen employed on the night shift. No man was allowed to leave the plant or the yards of the company until he had been questioned or given an account of his movements during the early part of the evening.

Soldier Arrests Suspect.

While the soldiers were clearing the vicinity of the plant of civilians and others who had gathered to watch the flames, Private Ingraham of Company K, Twenty-second U. S. Infantry, arrested a man who described himself as P. Sayre Christiansen of 220 Sixteenth street, Brooklyn. Christiansen said he was a Dane and had been in the United States but six months. Private Ingraham told the police, who took the man to the police station to be examined. Christiansen was running and screaming in a suspicious manner, and that he tried to escape when ordered to halt.

The fire started in the carpenter shop, a one-story frame structure at the head of the dry dock at the foot of Fifty-sixth street. A strong north wind was blowing and the flames quickly spread to the machine building, which soldiers on guard duty at the plant had been housed since the United States entered the war against Germany. The flames attacked the machine shop, the wind suddenly shifted to the west and other buildings lying in a semicircle around the machine shop burst into flames.

Fire Spreads Rapidly.

From these the fire spread to the machine shop, a large three-story brick building and one of the most important units of the plant. The wind expedited considerable difficulty when they tried to fight the flames around the soldiers' barracks because of the explosion of a large number of cartridges which had been left in the building when the flames forced the soldiers to leave the plant.

Two alarms were turned in almost as quickly as the fire was discovered, and a third and fourth followed in short order. The final alarms were answered by Chief Keeler and Deputy Keeler of the fire department, by Police Commissioner White and Police Inspector Connor, with the reserves of ten precincts. Three fireboats came quickly to the river and played streams of water from their hose on the burning buildings, but failed their activities on preventing the spread of the fire. The fire spread to other two or three hundred feet from the machine shop. There were eight vessels within a radius of one hundred yards of the fire, but they were not endangered, although as a precautionary measure they were towed by tug out of the harbor.

Naval Militiamen Aid.

The firemen were given great assistance by nearly a hundred members of the Naval Militia, who came under command of Lieutenant-Commander J. T. King and Ensign Willis H. Harrington from their encampment two blocks away. More than two hundred soldiers from Fort Hamilton also came over and joined the firemen, helping them move their hose about and forming bucket brigades to check the spread of the flames.

The plant of the Morse Dry Dock and Repair Company is one of the largest and most complete shipbuilding and repair plants in the United States, and since this company entered the war has been the scene of important military work. The value of the plant is estimated at \$1,000,000 and was owned by Edward P. Morse and others, who were connected for many years with the Morse firm of Works, on the site of the present plant.

INSISTS THAT JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER PAY BIG TAX IN OHIO

Threat Made to Assess Oil King on \$400,000,000.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 3.—County Auditor Rangelto to-day placed John D. Rockefeller's intangible property on the Cuyahoga county tax duplicate for \$2,000,000. This followed receipt of a letter from Rockefeller's attorney, W. R. Mitchell, threatening Rockefeller would appeal to the courts against "such injustice" if he was placed on the Cuyahoga county duplicate.

Senator said if Rockefeller contests the assessment he will be placed on the duplicate for \$2,000,000 and a continuation of the old fight to assess the oil king for all his wealth will be carried on to the courts.

CONGRESS GETS WAR BUDGET OF \$13,500,000,000

Baker's Request for \$6,615,936,553 Shows 1,500,000 Army Is Planned.

11 BILLIONS TO FIGHT

Wilson's Message To-day Unlikely to Ask War on Germany's Allies.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—When the long session of Congress opened to-day it faced an estimate of \$13,500,000,000, by far the largest in the country's history, for the conduct of the Government during the fiscal year 1918. Of this sum \$11,000,000,000 is asked for war. This fact was the dominant feature of the opening session.

To-morrow Senate and House will meet in joint session at 12:40 P. M. to hear the President's message. Congressional leaders are agreed that the recommendations of the Executive virtually will outline the session of the lawmakers.

General belief is that the President will not urge war upon the allies of Germany despite the widespread sentiment for such a declaration. Resolutions for a declaration of war upon Austria and Turkey, and perhaps Bulgaria, are known to have been prepared by several Senators, but their authors have been prevailed upon to withhold them.

The war budget apparently provides for the raising of an army of 1,500,000 men. For the military establishment \$6,615,553 is asked. Of this more than a billion is for pay alone. For fortifications it is proposed to expend \$2,332,455,122 and for the navy \$1,059,560,502. Although these figures probably do not include new ships to be asked whenever building facilities are available.

Funds for Army of 1,500,000.

Some items of unusual interest in the budget are the \$100,000,000 for the administration, \$5,000,000 for Fuel Administration, \$2,500,000 for military information section of General Staff, \$2,000,000 for Signal Corps, \$1,000,000 for aviation, \$1,250,000 for engineer equipment for troops, including gas and flame devices, \$125,000,000.

The session opened to-day without much excitement in either branch. The Senate adjourned until to-morrow afternoon immediately out of respect to the late Senator Charles McNary, who was accidentally shot and killed on a hunting trip during the recess.

The Senate and House each named their committees to-day. Usually the President that Congress stood ready to receive any message he had to deliver. This committee came back and told Congress that the President would address both houses to-morrow.

No previous message save those which had to do with the German crisis has been received by the President. Usually the message of the President intended for the reopening of Congress has been issued to the press associations and the Senate and House have been held subject to release. The President's message this time, however, will not be given out until just before the President starts to read it.

Only Cabinet Knows Its Contents.

Fear of another "leak" is said to be one of the reasons for this, the times being such that it was deemed wise to keep the contents of the message secret in advance of its delivery. Only members of the Cabinet have the slightest knowledge of its actual contents.

The organization of some business concerns, particularly manufacturing concerns, is such that while they are putting much of their cash into the war effort, they are also looking for ways to protect their interests. The organization of some business concerns, particularly manufacturing concerns, is such that while they are putting much of their cash into the war effort, they are also looking for ways to protect their interests.

\$60,540 in Brooklyn for Mayor.

The Brooklyn Branch of the City Democratic party \$60,540 to elect Mayor Mitchell. According to former Senator Thomas C. Whitlock chairman of the campaign, \$45,000 was expended for the maintenance of headquarters, both county and district, rental of halls, advertisements and other expenses. The balance of \$15,540 was contributed by the party members and watchers at the polls on election day.

Men in France Send Thanks for Smokes.

A PHAENON of praise! The phaeon isn't new, but it comes over from France and raised by the soldiers who received tobacco in THE SUN'S distribution of November 10-14. Read these genuine thanks, and if you have not given something, be it only a cigarette, do it now and feel warm about the heart like your friends who did give.

Something new in dance giving, a military ball for soldiers by soldiers. The first one to set the fashion will be held on Christmas Eve at the Hotel Ansonia, and THE SUN is going to help make the dance a great success.

Time for Sacrifice, Says Kitchin.

Majority Leader Kitchin volunteered the prediction that the duration of the war depended in large measure on the degree to which the ordinary man accepts the financial sacrifices which he must make. Mr. Kitchin expects a new revenue bill and further bond issues must be passed to raise money to pay the war bill.

The speaker must resolve that the war is not an opportunity to get rich," said Mr. Kitchin, "but an opportunity to serve the Government. The war is a day of sacrifice not only to those who are in the trenches but to those who stay at home."

"I believe that any man who is as well off in this world's goods after the beginning of the war as he was before the beginning of the war is a traitor to his country. The quicker all our people shall resolve to sacrifice the period of this war, the quicker the country the quicker the war will end."

Even before the formal meeting to-day House Democrats began the formation of a plan to try to limit the present session strictly to war legislation and appropriation bills. Majority Leader Kitchin will back the move.

20,000 Prisoners Taken by British.

LONDON, Dec. 3.—According to figures given out by the War Office to-night the British had taken 20,000 prisoners in the month of November 23,859 prisoners and 211 guns. Of these captures 11,551 men and 125 guns were taken on the western front, 1,000 men and 30 guns in Palestine and 4,000 men and 3 guns in East Africa.

Friends and business associates of Representative Fitzgerald are close to him insisted last night that there is no camouflage in his announced intention to quit public life. They say he recently became interested in a business venture which is turning out well, but demanding much attention, and that his law practice promises unusually well. Politicians not so intimate with Mr. Fitzgerald speculated upon the possibility of his becoming Corporation Counsel. They agreed the post of Chamberlain would not so intimate with Mr. Fitzgerald and John H. McCooze said they knew nothing of Mr. Fitzgerald's plans.

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FLIERS CHASE BALLOON; 2 MEN ESCAPE DEATH

Big Gas Bag With Student Officers Is Runaway at Fort Sill, Okla.

"ZEPPE" SCARE IN WEST

Army Air Monster That Flew Off Day Before Lands After 400 Mile Escape.

Fort Sill, Okla., Dec. 3.—Two student officers taking their first lessons in observation from a captive balloon suddenly shot upward 3,000 feet to-day when the huge, little airplane, swung aloft by the cable, was suddenly released. It was the second balloon escape of the region for the day, for already an army balloon had swept over three States from Fort Omaha, Neb., with its dragging anchor chains cutting a 400 mile gash before it finally landed at Trenton.

The second balloon sensation had many spectacular thrills. It was doing away 600 feet above the ground with its two officers picking out military dopes when the huge, little airplane, swung aloft by the cable, was suddenly released. It was the second balloon escape of the region for the day, for already an army balloon had swept over three States from Fort Omaha, Neb., with its dragging anchor chains cutting a 400 mile gash before it finally landed at Trenton.

Up and up it went, plunging slightly at the 2,000 foot level for a fresh start, and then climbing, climbing until it reached 3,200 feet. They hummed and circled like a pair of eagles, the two officers, and the balloon, and the telephone and telegraph wires began reporting the stages of the race. The balloon went east with a breeze furnishing the motive power.

Aviators Advise Captives.

The ambitious aviators tried to offer advice to the captives. The Food and Drug department, whether they succeeded or not is not known because the army put a gag on the high flying officers when they were in Texas. The aviators, however, tried to pull the gas string and let themselves descend to earth. It was very cold 3,200 feet above the ground, and the two officers, who were in the balloon, were glad to be back among the camp dwellers.

Scores of towns in three States had a glimpse of the first balloon escape, which went wild. Nobody was on board when it slipped its anchor and went on its 400 mile flight, with motor cars following it. The balloon was the thrill of its war life. The balloon was of the French type and carried 35,000 cubic feet of gas. It broke away from the Fort Sill camp and headed southeast in a high wind toward Oklahoma.

Weather Bureau's Aid Invoked.

Lieut. M. R. Smith of the balloon service ran over to Kansas city to see if the Weather Bureau could throw any light upon the probable intentions of the fugitive. With the weather bureau's aid, the day's air currents and made up his mind that if something did not happen the French visitor would eventually be blown into the Gulf of Mexico.

In the meantime the dragging anchor chain caught telephone wires, telegraph wires and housepoles, putting considerable damage to the country folk a real war. An airplane, detailed to serve as a policeman to stop the runaway, left Fort Omaha and headed toward the escaped balloon, over which the 6,000 foot two inch cable had been hauled, taking damage and terror along with it.

Newspapers in the vicinity of any of the places reporting to the army. It was almost midnight when the balloon came along under the full moon light. The balloon was seen by a number of people and pulling over small houses. Electric wires coming in contact with the metal supplied blue and white pyrotechnics of an unearthly character.

LAY SENSELESS IN HOME FOUR DAYS

James Reilly, Editor, Found Near Open Phone.

James Reilly, managing editor of the Wall Street Journal, was found unconscious yesterday morning in his home in Ridgewood, N. J., where he had lain for four days and nights. He had been attacked by a burglar, but upon recovering consciousness in the Pateron Hospital he related how he had felt an attack of vertigo coming on.

Mr. Reilly managed to reach the telephone before he lost consciousness and lifted off the receiver. Before he could call for help, however, his senses left him and he fell. For four days the telephone lay with the receiver off the hook, and although the operator in the central office admitted he could hear Mr. Reilly's heavy breathing no report of it was made to the police.

Mr. Reilly's wife left for her mother's home up-State about two weeks ago and the editor made arrangements with neighbors to take his meals with them. On Thursday morning last he was found lying on the floor, his head against a gas cleaning his motor car when he began to feel ill. He went back to his house to lie down and began to get dizzy. Realizing that he was about to faint he hurried to the telephone at the top of a short flight of stairs. When he fell he dragged the telephone on top of him, severely bruising his head. His right shoulder and back also were badly wrenched and bruised.

On Saturday the wire inspector of the telephone company received a complaint from the switchboard operator that Mr. Reilly's telephone receiver had been off the hook for three days. A telephone inspector was sent to the house, but instead of trying to enter he simply inserted a notice under the front door which read: "Please hang up your receiver."

In the neighbor's house it was concluded that Mr. Reilly might be away visiting his wife, but when he failed to appear for breakfast yesterday morning an investigation was made. Mr. Reilly was found lying head first down the flight of stairs and stains from the wounds made by the telephone were found on the stairs.

BRITISH FORCES HOLD LINE AGAINST SAVAGE ATTACKS BY FOE SOUTH OF CAMBRAI

MANY AMERICAN ENGINEERS KILLED IN CAMBRAI BATTLE

French Government Praises "Coolness, Discipline and Courage" of Improvised Combatants Who Dropped Shovels to Fight Germans.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—An official communication from the French Government to-night says many Americans were killed while fighting with the British troops when caught in the German encircling movement south of Cambrai. High tribute is paid to the gallantry of the Americans in the communication, as follows:

We must remark upon the conduct of certain American soldiers, pioneers and workmen on the military railroad in the sector of the German attack south of Cambrai, on November 30. They exchanged their picks and shovels for rifles and cartridges and fought with the English.

It is stated that the Americans, in hand, before the invaders. All helped to repulse the enemy. There is not a single person who saw them at work who does not praise them for the coolness, discipline and courage of these improvised combatants.

RUSSO-GERMAN ARMISTICE IS ON DOUBTS IF U. S. SENDS BIG ARMY

Hindenburg Calls Transportation and U-Boats Insuperable.

Truces in Effect in Many Sections From the Pripet to South of the Lipa.

BOLSHEVIKI MEN ARRIVE
Peace Envoys Reach Field Headquarters of Prince Leopold of Bavaria.

Ludendorff Says Contest Will End in Decision for Central Powers.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 3.—Field Marshal von Hindenburg, according to an interview with the Vienna *Neue Freie Presse*, still discounts the entry of the United States into the war. The German Field Marshal is quoted as making an ironical reference to "American advertising methods," adding:

"It is certain that the United States is making efforts to create a big army, and the war is an opportune pretext for this. As in peace times the difficulties would be too great to do it. Japan, too, would not have looked on with indifference."

The Americans hardly will send their newly created army into Europe at once as by doing so their own country would be rendered helpless in case Japan should show some inclination to square up old accounts with America.

Gen. Ludendorff, Hindenburg's chief of staff, is quoted in the same interview as saying that the war will end in a decision for the Central Powers. He does not have the least doubt as to the general trend of events. He says that the German army is in a position to prepare the way with the plenipotentiaries of the allied (Teutonic) armies for an armistice on the whole of the Russian front.

An official statement issued in Vienna says:

During the last few days an armistice has been announced on many sections of the Russian front, from division to division and from corps to corps. In the Pripet region the Russian army concluded an official armistice with the opposing command of the allied (Teutonic) troops.

London, Dec. 3.—Russian general headquarters, it is officially announced, has reported that on Friday fraternization had increased, especially on the northern and western (Russian) fronts in connection with the armistice negotiations entered into with the Bolsheviks. Russian headquarters also announces that the Russian torpedo boat *Boletyev* was blown up by an enemy mine Thursday.

Bulgaria has decided to open negotiations with Russia, in accordance with her allies, and has sent a reply to this effect to the Russian government, says a Sofia despatch via Amsterdam. This announcement was made in the Bulgarian Parliament by Premier Radoslavov.

THINKS LITTLE OF BOLSHEVIK OFFER.

"How effective the campaign has been in this respect is proved by the report of the chief of when an enemy newspaper estimated that the allied troops in Italy need no other supplies than coal. The scarcity of British supplies is also proved by the negotiations with us. Of course we can conclude an armistice with Russia at any time as soon as we have the assurance that it will be maintained. A general armistice, however, will be difficult to achieve."

Gen. von Ludendorff considered the Russian revolution not a mere piece of bluff, but a real danger to the Central Powers, and a natural result of the war operations. "Modern war," said the General, "is a war of peoples, not of armies, and a war ends now when an enemy people is defeated. There are no decisive battles as in former wars. The battles merely have an indirect influence on the whole national system, inducing decay and collapse."

One More Russian Blow Possible.

With reference to the Russian army Field Marshal von Hindenburg gave to the correspondent his opinion that no more military activity on a large scale could be expected from it.

He thought it possible, however, adds the correspondent, that "some despot or other like Grand Duke Nicholas might

SMOKE TELEGRAPH CIPHER NEW CREATION—VERY MILD. PART 6. (Continued on Second Page.)

TEXT OF REPORTS.

LONDON, Dec. 3.—Official reports of today's fighting follow: British (right)—From Gonnelleu to Marcoing.

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